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and of the last days of Mr. and Mrs. Pigott and Family,
as told by Li-pai, the Shepherd.

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The Story of the persecution of the Church at Sheo-yang-hsien, Shansi, and of the last days of Mr. and Mrs. Pigott and Family, as told by Li-pai, the Shepherd.

The following pathetic story has been related to me by Li-pai, the shepherd, and I have kept as far as possible to his own words, but a good deal has been lost in the translation. Some of the details he gave regarding the execution of the native Christians I have hesitated to publish. I unhesitatingly believe the story, for I have known the narrator for years as a consistent and fearless Christian. Before the present trouble broke out he was occasionally in danger because of his earnestness in denouncing idolatry. Though only a shepherd, he is an exceptionally intelligent man, and able to read the Chinese characters. He told his story connectedly and clearly, and though I went over it with him several times, he did not differ in his accounts in any important points. As we rehearsed it again and again, he would remember a few things previously omitted.

I trust his story may be the means of creating pity on behalf of these Christians still living in Shansi, and who are in great need. Their condition is described as deplorable in the extreme, and it is feared many will die of hunger and cold before help can be sent them.

E. H. EDWARDS,
M.B.Edin.

Peking, 27th Dec. 1900.

I, Li-pai, have been a church member for five years, and was baptised by the late Mr. Pigott. For three years after my baptism I still pursued my calling as a shepherd, but for about two had devoted all my time to assisting Mr. Pigott in his missionary work.

It was not until the beginning of June that Mr. Pigott began to feel at all uneasy about the condition of affairs

in our neighbourhood. At that time there were many rumours abroad accusing the Christians of poisoning the wells, and marking the doors of their neighbours with mystic signs, which were supposed to bring evil to the house so marked. Mr. Pigott wrote a friendly letter to the local magistrate pointing this out to him. I myself took the letter and waited for the reply. In his answer the magistrate told Mr. Pigott that he thought the rumours were due to the great drought, and suggested that the church members should be exhorted to be very cautious in what they said and where they went. Mr. Pigott was quite satisfied with this reply, as also were Mr. Beynon and Mr. Stokes, who were staying with him at the time. On June 18th Mr. and Mrs. Beynon with their children left for T'aiyuen-fu, and on the return of the mule litter which had taken them, Mr. and Mrs. Stokes went, leaving Sheo-yang on the 22nd. That same day Mr. Pigott's confidential helper, Wang-tengren, left for Tai-ku Hsien with a letter to Mr. Clapp asking for a loan of silver, as none was to be obtained from Tientsin, as he wished to pay off the contractors and workmen who had been working on his new house, which has been finished and occupied about the middle of May. The messenger to T'ai-ku Hsien returned on June 26th with six "shoes" of silver (about 300 taels). Four of these Mr. Pigott immediately sent to be sold for cash with which to pay the workmen, and retained two for any emergency which might arise. On the morning of June 29th a letter came from the mandarin addressed to Mr. Pigott, and on the cover was written, "If any one else opens this letter he will certainly be punished." It was

taken at once to Mr. Pigott and we read it together. In it the official said that the day before he had received through the Governor an Imperial proclamation; and the tenor of it was such that he could no longer protect the foreigners. If Mr. Pigott wished to go, he would escort him north, south, east or west, to the boundaries of his jurisdiction, but could do no more. Mr. Pigott called together Mrs. Pigott, Miss Duval and Mr. Robinson to discuss the matter; but before anything was decided a letter arrived from T'aiyuen-fu which increased the alarm. It was written from Mr. Farthing's house by Mr. Stokes, and told of the burning of the hospital and adjoining mission buildings at T'aiyuen-fu, and the murder of Miss Coombs on 27th. Mr. Pigott immediately sent his helper Wang-ten-ren to settle the outstanding accounts, while I was despatched to gather together all the church members whom I could find in the neighbourhood. When we were gone Mr. and Mrs. Pigott and family sat down to a hurried meal. On our return Mr. Pigott told the assembled Christians the contents of the letter and said each must decide for himself what he would do. As for him and his family it was clearly impossible for them to remain where they were, but where to go he did not know. At that time there were staying on the premises two women as patients, one of whom was a Christian. Her husband—also a Christian—had come to see her that very day and at once invited Mr. Pigott and family to go back with them to their village which was in a very isolated position, and consisted of only some 10 families, five of which were Christians. Mr. Pigott at once accepted the invitation and then asked if any of us were willing to go with them. Wang-ten-ren and I volunteered to accompany them, but Mr. and Mrs. Pigott both said it would not do for the former to go as he must stay and look after his wife and two children. It was eventually decided that one of their servants named Heng-ching should go as cook, and that I should also go to help in any way I could. At once we began to make preparations and I took

the two "shoes" of silver to get changed into small pieces as more convenient for use in the villages. I went from shop to shop but none of them would have anything to do with our silver, as the news of the disaster at Taiyuen-fu, and the burning of a mission house belonging to the English Baptist Mission at a place some 70 li to the west of us, was already known on the street. When I returned to the mission house I found the preparations for our departure completed, and we set out about four o'clock. Mrs. Pigott, Miss Duval and Tien-pao (Wellesley) rode on ponies, while the two little Atwater girls rode on donkeys which a member named Miao had been able to hire. Mr. Pigott and Mr. Robinson went on foot. It was quite dark when we reached the little hill village of Peh-liang shan, and we were very thankful to be able to take up our abode in the cave house of the Christian who had so kindly invited us. That night passed quietly enough, but the next day we were surprised by the arrival of several hundred people to see the foreigners. From morning to night they crowded the court-yard of the little cave house—a continuous stream going in and out. I stood at the gateway nearly all day and heard the people discussing the doings of the Boxers, and the destruction of mission premises in other places. That night there was a heavy rain, so that next day (Sunday, July 1st) we were comparatively quiet, but were visited by two enquirers who told us what happened in the city after we left. As soon as we had gone the assistant in the dispensary took all the drugs, instruments, etc., as well as a good many things from the general store-room to his own home, as he said, for safety. That same night (29th) a man named Lao-ngang employed at Taiyuen-fu went and asked Wang-ten-ren for the key of the upper story of the new house, which he said he would look after. But I will now relate what I afterwards learnt on good authority about this man Lao-ngang. He is a church member, but I fear a false one. As I said he had

been employed for some time at Taiyuen-fu. The price of all kinds of grain having risen there very considerably, Mr. Stokes sent this Lao-ngang to purchase a large quantity at Sheoyang where it was much cheaper. Mr. Pigott helped him in this matter, and on June 28th started out on his return journey. At the place where he stopped for the night he heard of the burning of the buildings at Taiyuen-fu, and the next day (29th) returned to Sheoyang, and instead of reporting to Mr. Pigott, handed the grain over to his son who lived in the Yamen where he was employed. Not until Mr. Pigott had gone did he shew himself at the mission house, and then it was only to ask for the keys of the new house on the pretence of helping to take care of it. How well he did this we shall see, for on the 30th the neighbours and others broke into the house, stole all they could and destroyed all they were not able to carry away, even to the doors and windows. This news was brought as I said to Mr. Pigott on Sunday July 1st and greatly increased the sorrow and anxiety of all. But the next day brought worse news still. About nine in the morning of the 2nd a man came to say that that very morning at the village of Chengchipo only 7 li (2 miles) from us, the Boxers had burnt the houses of three Christians. We had hardly listened to their story when another came to say that not only had the houses been burnt, but that 5 or 6 Christians had been killed in the same village and two at the neighbouring village of Lienhwachi. This news soon spread round the country and in the afternoon the crowds again began to gather, and soon commenced to pillage, and stole not only the few things Mr. Pigott had with him, but also the goods of the Christians of the village. Mr. Pigott tried to restrain those who were stealing his goods by reminding them of all the work—medical and otherwise—he had done in their midst during the past years. But all to no purpose. He then pointed to a revolver which Mr. Robinson had brought and said, "See, we have a revolver and could

kill at least six of you, but don't wish to do so. If you wish to kill us you may." Some of those standing round then said, "We don't want to kill you, but only to get your goods," and with that they set to work, again pillaging. Mr. Pigott then took me aside and said that I must leave them and get out of Shansi as soon as possible, going either to Peking where there was a young man Hanchaok'wei who might be able to help me; or I could seek a former helper named Sung who sometime before had returned to his home in Chibli and joined the Roman Catholics. I told Mr. Pigott I did not wish to leave him and was quite willing to go with him wherever he went. He then explained to me that I really could not help them by staying, and when I again protested, he became very decided and said I must go. He said that as for himself and his family, he had decided to return to Sheoyang and seek protection from the mandarin. I saddled the three ponies (which had not been stolen, having fortunately been placed in the care of a non-Christian whose property was untouched) and about sunset we set out for the city. Just outside the village we knelt down to pray. It was a sorrowful prayer meeting, as we were all in tears. Miss Duval, Mr. Robinson and the children prayed in English, which of course I could not understand. Mr. and Mrs. Pigott and I prayed in Chinese and then they started on their sad journey. I followed them as closely as I could and saw that when they reached the river which runs just outside the south gate of the city, they had some difficulty in crossing it in consequence of the recent rains. On reaching the other side they were all more or less wet and muddy. Some men on the further side had recognised them and ran into the city saying, "The foreign devils have come back." After crossing the river they went to the east gate instead of the south, as the men who had gone on ahead expected, and so got into the city quietly, as it was then about midnight. I had followed them as far as this, but thinking it would not be safe

for me to go into the city I went to an empty shed just outside the north gate where I stayed several days. I dare not show myself during the day, but by going out at night and listening to the conversation on the street I learnt that Mr. Pigott and family had been placed in the guard house of the Yamen. On the 3rd while in my hiding place, which was not far from a road, I heard a great many people running by in great excitement, and afterwards learnt that that day seven Christians had been arrested and executed with great barbarity outside the west gate; but the full story of this terrible event I will tell later on. About five li from the city lived a friend, and on the night of the 4th I went to his house and knocked at his door. He at first would not open it, and when he did he was terribly scared, because he knew I was a Christian, and would not let me in. I told him I only wanted to say a few words, so he allowed me to enter. I let him know my hiding place and asked him to find out for me when Mr. Pigott and family were to be taken from the city and let me know. This he promised to do. On returning to the shed I felt I had done very foolishly in telling him where I could be found, as it was quite possible he might bring the Boxers and arrest me. On the next day (5th) therefore I left the shed and hid in the tall kaoliang (sorghum) where I could see who was coming and easily make my escape if necessary. To my relief I saw him coming alone, and I met him at the appointed place. He had kindly brought me three cakes which were very acceptable, as for several days I had had nothing to eat but a little grass and what unripe wheat I could gather. He told me that he had heard that the foreigners were to start the next day for Taiyuen-fu under a strong guard of soldiers. As soon as it was dark I left my place of hiding and went along the road leading to Taiyuen-fu for 20 li where I hid myself, determined to see as much of my pastor and his family as I could. As soon as it was light I waited with much

anxiety and at last about 10 o'clock saw them coming along, all seated in one big country cart without any cover, and escorted by a military official, who rode in front, and between 30 and 40 soldiers, horse and foot. I could not travel during the day, but that night I went to a temple on the main road 5 li east of a place called Shetieh, where I could see along the road for some distance both ways. About noon (of the 7th) I got into conversation with two men who had come from the direction of Sheoyang, and who told me that the day before a party of foreigners had been stopped at the village of Taingan-ih. There the local Boxers wanted to murder the foreigners, but were prevented from doing so by the escort. Soon after, I saw the soldiers of the escort in the distance, so went on and waited at a place about 5 li west of Shetieh. By getting into conversation with other travellers I found out that the party stopped at Shetieh, and also had trouble with the Boxers of that place who wished to kill them.

That afternoon they went on, and instead of taking the main road to Taiyuen-u they turned off towards the town of Yu-tsi from which they were to have another escort. That night (7th) they stopped at the village of Wanghu, about ten li from Yu-tsi, where their new escort joined them. That night I went to a quiet spot near the village of Liutsuen, about 5,086 li east of the market town of Ming ch'ien-ih. On the morning of the 8th, about 8 or 9 o'clock, I saw them coming along escorted both by the soldiers from Sheo-yang and from Yu-tsi. As they passed my hiding place I could hear Mr. Pigott speaking to the carter who was sitting on the front of the cart near him, and so far as I could hear he was telling him that he had only one son, and that the mandarin at Sheo-yang would do nothing to help to save him. I afterwards heard that Mr. Pigott had promised that official several hundred taels if he would save the life of his little boy. After the party had passed me I ventured to travel during the day by side roads, as I was not known in that neighbourhood, and about five o'clock

reached the house of a distant relative who lived outside the east gate of T'ai-yuen-fu. He was terribly frightened when he saw me and wanted to have nothing to do with me as I was a Christian, but I persuaded him to let me stay there for the night as he was all alone. I asked him to go out and ascertain what he could about the foreigners coming from Sheo-yang. In the evening he returned and said that the party had been unable to enter the city that night (the 8th) as the Boxers on the road had become so threatening, and they had therefore stopped at a village ten li from the city. The next day (9th) my relative was so afraid of having me in his house that he partitioned off a small space in his granary with straw where I could hide, while he went into the city to gather what news he could. In the evening he returned with tidings which made my heart ache more than I can express. He said that in the morning 200 soldiers, horse and foot, had been sent out to assist in escorting the party from Sheo-yang. On entering the city the foreigners wished to be taken to Mr. Farthing's house, where they had last heard from their friends, but were told by the soldiers that all the other foreigners were already at the Governor's Yamen, where they also were to go. My relative told me that on arriving there they found that some of the other foreigners had already been killed, and that very soon after their arrival all those from Sheo-yang were also killed. My heart was indeed heavy and sad on receiving that news, and I left at daylight on the 10th, taking the small road back to Sheo-yang. For two days I seemed to wander aimlessly about, not knowing where to go or what to do. I had lost my pastor and his family, and I knew that men were on the watch for me ready to take my life. On the 12th I thought I would go to Hsincheo, where the Baptists had a station. I had not gone far on this road before I met a muleteer who recognised me. He asked me where I was going and when I said to Hsincheo; he said, "You must by no means go there. I have just

come through from Kalgan, and there are no missionaries left either there or at Kweihwacheng, Tatungfu or Hsincheo." He advised me to go in some other direction and kindly gave me 200 cash. I did not know where to go, but at last in the evening found myself at a small secluded village in the mountains called Hsiao-peyu. I asked for a night's lodging which I offered to pay for with my 200 cash. They suspected me of being a Christian but eventually allowed me to remain, and the next day one man offered me work on his farm. I remained there till August 2nd, but by that time I could not hide from them that I was a Christian and had to leave. I went to the house of the friend who lived just outside Sheoyang city and who had previously befriended me. He was greatly surprised to see me as he thought I was surely killed. I said that there was nothing to fear now if I would only leave the church, as a proclamation had been issued ordering the officials to protect all who did so. He told me that the man Laongang, whom I have previously mentioned, had left the church and obtained a post in the Yamen as recorder of the names of those who had recanted. All who did so had to pay a fee for which they obtained a certificate protecting them from the attacks of the Boxers. That night I slept in an old kiln, as my friend was afraid to have me stay at his house as I had not left the church. The next night (3rd) I went to the Yamen and saw the man Laongang, and in the same room with him were his son and two former church members Lai-cheng and Ch'ang-hsiao. They were extremely surprised to see me, as they said the Boxers had been specially anxious to get hold of me and had sought everywhere. They explained to me the method of gaining a certificate of protection, but I told them I had no money. I asked them, supposing I wished to purchase such a certificate, would they lend me the money. This they declined to do; but had they offered me the money I would not have left the church. On leaving them I thought I had better take Mr. Pigott's advice and get out

of the province of Shansi altogether. I remembered that a member of the church at Sheo-yang (the man Miao who borrowed the donkeys for Mr. Pigott the day he fled) had his home in the neighbouring province of Chihli near the town of Shuen-teh-fu, and I determined to go there, and set off the same night. As I had previously been over the district through which I was now to travel selling books, I had to be very careful. I could obtain but little food as I only ventured to beg on small hamlets with few houses, and had no money to buy. My destination was not reached till Aug. 25th and by that time I was very thin and weak. Four times during that journey I had been recognised and came nearly losing my life. Had it not been for God's mercy I should not be here to tell the story. The first time I was in danger was on Aug. 7th. When passing through a large village I was recognised by one man as a Christian. He immediately pounced upon me, bound my hands and told the villagers I was an "Er-mac-tsi" (secondary rebel). He took me to the village temple, beat the big bell thus calling all the villagers together. He told them I was a Christian and ought to be killed. But no one took his side, and some said that whether I was a Christian or not was nothing to them. "Very well," he said, "if nothing to you I will myself take him to Sheo-yang and hand him over to the magistrate." With that he led me outside the village, but suddenly turned round, threw down the rope and said to me "Go." I think he was chagrined because no one else sided with him. That same afternoon I was passing through a village and stooped down to drink from a well. Some people saw me and rushed towards me, accusing me of putting poison in the water. Again I was bound and they took me to the village temple and discussed what should be done to me. Some said, "Bury him alive," others said, "No, let us take him to the nearest official." At last an old man came along and said, "We don't want to kill anybody here; and if you take the

man to the Yamen you will have to spend money. Bring him to my house and we will make him drink water from that well every day, and then we shall know if he has put poison on it." To this they agreed, and he took me to his house, where I stayed till the 11th. During this time he treated me very well. He was a talkative old man and I had many opportunities of explaining to him why the Christians were hated, and in this way I was able to preach to him. When he let me go on the 11th he gave me a few small loaves to help me on my journey. Two days later (13th) I was again in great jeopardy, for in the morning I was recognised in a village where I had been some time before selling books. I was again bound and the crowd which gathered on the street discussed how they should kill me. One said, "We have no sword." Others said, "We have our sickles." "That will do," they said, and they were leading me outside the village, when to my surprise they one by one dropped behind, until only the man who had the rope which was round my neck was left. Looking around and finding himself alone with me, he threw down the rope and ran back as fast as he could, while I was allowed to go on in peace. But my troubles for that day were not over. I remembered that in the neighbourhood lived a man whom I had once employed as a shepherd. If I could find him I thought he would be willing to aid me. I found him that afternoon but to my dismay directly he saw me he called out to his fellow-villagers, "The Ermaotsi" (secondary rebel) has come." He then told them that I had led many foreigners into Shansi who had killed many Chinese. They bound my hands behind me, and after a time tied me up by my thumbs to a beam, and kept me there all that night, while they discussed if they should kill me. In the morning another old man again pleaded my cause and suggested they should let me go. To this they agreed if I would write a paper guaranteeing that none in the village should die because of my visit!

I said that as I could not guarantee my own life much less could I guarantee theirs. They then said I must leave them my name and the name of my village. At once I agreed to this and they then let me go. As I have said I reached my destination on Aug. 25th, but as the village was large and scattered I did not find my friend Miao till the 27th. When he saw the condition I was in he burst into tears and at once took me into his house. With him I stayed till Oct. 16th and found it indeed a haven of rest, as the Boxers in that district were not so outrageous as in other parts. In fact my friend Miao, though known to be a Christian, had only been fined some 3000 cash. Before leaving, my friend Miao had prepared for me a quantity of buckwheat flour, and in addition gave me 400 cash. Thus provided I set out on my return journey on Oct. 16th. On 21st I arrived at T'ai-ku Hsien, where the six American missionaries had been massacred. I found the house outside the south gate all in ruins, but did not enter the city. On the 23rd I went to Yu-tse Hsien where my brother had been killed, and tried to find out about a Christian named Tu who formerly lived there, but failed to ascertain anything about him. I arrived in T'ai-yuen-fu on 25th and the city looked very deserted, as many of the houses were empty. The mission house which was burned on June 27th I found all in ruins; and the gate house of the premises occupied by Mr. Farthing was also in ruins. As for the Roman Catholic premises, not only were they in ruins, but the very foundations had been dug up, as it had been reported that arms and ammunition were buried underneath the buildings. Though in the city for four days I saw nothing of the Christians there. I left on the 30th and going round by Hsien-cheo arrived at Sheo-yang on Nov. 4th. I went at once to my old friend Si-lan-see, and as things had quieted down, I was able to live with him without fear. I only remained with him four days but during that time he told me much that filled my heart with sorrow. He first recounted to me what befell Mr. Pigott

and family after they entered the city on the night of July 2nd.

The next day the Boxers heard they were there and wanted to kill them all, but the mandarin said the matter was in the hands of the governor and he must hand them over to him. The mandarin appointed Li-lan-su to look after them, but gave nothing for their support, so Mrs. Pigott had to dispose of one of her rings, which was pawned for 40,000 cash. Thus for the three days they were in the guard-house their needs were supplied, but they were much inconvenienced as they were all kept in one apartment. Before leaving on the 6th Mr. Pigott gave two of his horses to the mandarin, and one to the head of the warders. Li-lan-su bought them provision—eggs and bread—for the journey; and also gave Mr. Pigott a pair of large handcuffs which he could slip on and off as he wished, in case they should meet Boxers on the road. If they saw him with the handcuff on it was thought they would at once come to the conclusion the party was being escorted as prisoners, and so let them pass in peace. On the night of the 5th they received a visit from their faithful servant and helper Wang-ten-ren. Mr. Pigott gave him a letter for his friends in England, but said he must give it into the charge of his wife, as he feared his life would certainly be sought by the Boxers. This turned out to be quite true, for soon after (Li-lan-su was not sure of the date or place) he was arrested by the Boxers and taken before the mandarin. At his trial there were sitting with this official both a military officer and a Boxer leader. They ordered a circle be made on the floor and inside that the figure of a cross. Wang-ten-ren was then commanded to micturate upon it. He said he could not do such a thing before them. They said, "Oh! never mind us, it is only to show that you leave the church." He again declined to do it, and was then ordered to be taken away and executed. The letter entrusted to his care was in the hands of the man Lao-ngan when I left Sheo-yang. [This young man Wang-ten-ren had been under Christian in-

fluence for over twenty years. During the great famine of '76-8 he was sent to the school opened by the missionaries for famine refugees. At that time he was quite a child. Subsequently he was in the employ of the late Dr. Schofield, and after his death was almost constantly with Mr. and Mrs. Pigott. During their absence in England during '97-99 he assisted me in the dispensary at Taiyuen-fu. Whatever position he filled he was thoroughly trustworthy, and on the return of Mr. and Mrs. Pigott to China in the spring of '99 he returned to them and became their confidential helper. His wife was from one of the schools of Peking, and proved herself a most efficient helpmate. He had two children of whom he was passionately fond, and he was also devoted to Mr. and Mrs. Pigott and their little son Wellesley. He had been a Christian many years, and it will be very difficult to find another to fill his place.—E. H. E.]

Li-lan-su also told me that on July 3rd seven Christians were massacred outside the west gate of the city. He knew the names of them all. Among the number was Mi-sien-seng who had been employed for about three years as teacher in the boys' school. When taken before the mandarin and Boxer leader and ordered to recant he expostulated with the official, and was killed with great barbarity. Though all this happened before Mr. Pigott left Sheo-yang he was not informed of it by Li-lan-su, as he knew it would be such a grief to him.

On July 11th or 12th nine other Christians and adherents were executed on the same place as the seven, among them being a father, his son and the son's wife and child. Also a father and his two sons, neither of whom were church members, but the father was a probationer and the two boys had been in the school for some time. [One of these nine—a man named Ts'ai—had some years ago been a patient in the hospital at Taiyuen-fu, where he was converted. He was a painter by trade, and earned most of his living by painting idol pictures. When he became a Christian he of course could no longer

undertake such work, and gave me his book of patterns of idols, etc. Subsequently he was employed by Mr. Pigott as a colporteur, and was a very fearless preacher. He is reported to have been killed with much cruelty, as he had had the audacity to preach in one of the local temples. Another of the nine was an old man named Hu, 70 years of age. He was baptised 13 years ago by Rev. J. J. Turner at Hsincheo. For many years he had been in charge of the out-station of Shi-tieh in connection with the English Baptist Mission. On June 28th the Mission house there was burned and the landlord (not a Christian) beaten to death. Hu-sien-seng fled to the village of Lien-hwa-chi, but on July 2nd the Christians there were attacked and he fled again. It is not known where he escaped to, or when he was captured. I myself knew him when he was an enquirer and have watched his course ever since. Many times has he most kindly entertained me at his out-station when passing to and fro. He had a kindly disposition, and was much respected in the little market town of Shi-tieh, where he was well known. Of the 40 odd members of this little church at Shi-tieh, over which Hu-sien-seng to a great extent presided, about 36 were killed!—E. H. E.]

My own brother, who had only been baptised on June 19th or 20th, fled on the outbreak of the Boxers with two lads—brothers, named Lai-tseng and Hsien—two Yu-tsi Hsien. My brother was captured by the Boxers and killed outside the east gate of that city. The other two lads managed somehow to escape and returned to their home, where they took out the required certificate as having left the church, and so were unmolested. Of the girls from Sheo-yang who had been in the school at Taiyuen-fu under the care of Miss Coombs, two had been sent back under the care of the Sheo-yang mandarin. Little Ngai-an, Li-lan-su's daughter, was safe in her own home. The other girl, poor Pa-t'ao, returned to find that her father and mother and elder sister had all been killed by the Boxers. She had been adopted by

an uncle. [This girl was one of the brightest we had in the school at Taiyuen-fu, and a true Christian. Her father and mother were also Christians and very consistent. On one occasion when Pu-t'ao returned home with large (i.e. unbound) feet, she was greatly ridiculed by the neighbours; and in order to help her bear the petty persecution, her mother also unbound her feet.—E. H. E.]

Having learnt all I could of my friends at Sheo-yang, I left on Nov. 8 for Shuenteh-fu to relate to the member Miao all I had heard. Li-tan-su kindly gave me 1,220 cash to defray my travelling expenses, and I arrived at my destination on Nov. 12th. I related to my friend the sad news concerning the foreigners and church of Shansi, and left the next day for Paoting-fu where I heard foreign troops had arrived. I reached there on Nov. 23rd, but finding no-one whom I knew I turned back to a place some 80 li to the south-west where I knew a man named Suen lived, who was formerly one of Mr. Pigott's helpers; and though I knew he was a Roman Catholic I thought he would help me. In this I was not mistaken, for when he saw me he was most kind. The next day (25th) being Sunday he thought I should be more at home with Protestants than with him, so he introduced me to some members of the church at Paoting-fu in connection with the American Board Mission. Directly they learnt I had come from Sheo-yang and could tell them about Mr. Pigott, they received me most warmly and treated me most generously. Many of them remembered Mr. Pigott as he had lived in Paoting-fu during the winter of 1891-2 and had often visited their village. When I told them what had happened to him and his family they could not restrain their tears and it was a sad scene. On the Sunday they asked me to lead their service, and I tried to speak to them from I Peter chap. i, specially verses 6-9, but we could scarcely get through the service

for our tears. Most of those at the service had lost home and everything. On the arrival of the foreign troops in the neighbourhood they had been to some extent indemnified, and were rebuilding their houses. I stayed with these kind people till the 30th, and the next day (Dec. 18th) they took me to Paoting-fu and introduced me to the Chinese pastor—Meng—of the American Board. Their mission-house, chapel and other buildings had all been destroyed, and I found the Christians—many of whom were refugees—occupying the house of a well-to-do man who had been a Boxer leader. They received me very kindly and after four or five days I met a Christian named Lang, who last year had lived with me for about 20 days in the city of P'ing-ting-cheo, where we were both selling Christian books. He introduced me to Mr. Lowrie of the American Presbyterian Mission, who was acting as interpreter to the German forces. He was very kind to me, giving me some wadded clothes and advising me to come on to Peking. He gave me money for the journey, and most kindly arranged that I should travel with four lads who were returning to Peking to school. We arrived here on Dec. 13th, and I had scarcely arrived at the door of the mission house when I met Fei-chi-hao from Shansi, who at once took me to Mr. Tewkesbury. He too was most kind and sympathetic, giving me food and new clothes, and saying I could remain with them till you came. Several times I went to the railway-station to see if you had arrived, and it was only the last day (Dec. 18th) that I met Han-chao-kwei, who was at the station on the same errand. He said if you did not come that day I was to go and stay at his home.

Fortunately you did come that day, and little by little I have told you the sad story of the sufferings of the Foreigners and Christians of Shansi. I hope that we may be able to return to that province and help these who are left.